

REMARKS

Claim 40-58 are is presented for consideration, with Claims 40 and 50 being independent.

The specification has been amended to include the continuing data of the subject application and to improve its idiomatic English form, and a new abstract is being submitted.

Claims 1-39 have been cancelled and replaced with Claims 40-58.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), copies of the listed documents are not enclosed because they are of record in related Application No. 09/777,669.

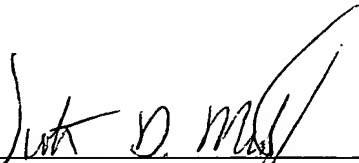
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Scott D. Malpede
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM/vmm

DC_MAIN 143906 v 1